

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-captioned application:

Listing of the Claims

1-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended): A water irrigation system, comprising:

irrigation equipment;

a computer system; wherein the computer system is configured to control the irrigation equipment to irrigate an irrigation zone based on a programmed irrigation schedule, wherein the programmed irrigation schedule is at least partially based on the region where the irrigation zone is located;

at least one sensing unit configured to assess an amount of moisture in an irrigation zone; wherein the computer system is configured to inhibit irrigation of the irrigation zone when an assessed amount of moisture exceeds a predetermined amount; and

at least one receiver coupled to the computer system, wherein the receiver is configured to receive community irrigation instructions generated for the region and send the community irrigation instructions to the computer system, wherein the community irrigation instructions override the programmed irrigation schedule, and wherein the computer system is configured to

initiate operation of the irrigation system in response to community instructions indicating a fire hazard condition.

35. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 34, wherein the receiver is a pager device.
36. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 34, wherein the receiver is an infrared receiver.
37. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 34, wherein the receiver is a single frequency device.
38. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 34, wherein the receiver is an assignable frequency device.
39. (Previously presented): The system of claim 34, wherein the community irrigation instructions result in one or more of the following actions: termination of an irrigation cycle, reduction in duration of an irrigation cycle, reduction in frequency of an irrigation cycle, rescheduling of an irrigation cycle, and initiation of an irrigation cycle.
40. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 34, wherein the region comprises at least a portion of a postal zone.
41. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 34, further comprising a solar panel configured to receive sunlight and to produce electricity from the received sunlight, and wherein the solar panel is configured to supply at least a portion of the electricity to the sensing unit.
42. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 34, further comprising at least one wind switch, wherein when the when the wind speed measured by the wind switch exceeds a predetermined value a control signal is sent to at least one of the receivers to terminate irrigation.

43. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 34, further comprising at least one wind speed sensing unit, wherein when the wind speed measured by the wind speed sensing unit exceeds a certain value for a selected length of time, a control signal is sent to at least one of the receivers to terminate irrigation.

44. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 34, further comprising a solar panel configured to receive sunlight and to use the received sunlight to produce electricity, wherein the sensing unit is configured to provide output that is a function of the received sunlight to the computer system, and wherein the computer system is configured to assess solar insolation as a function of the output from the sensing unit; and wherein the computer system is configured to control irrigation of a zone to be irrigated at least partially based on the assessed solar insolation.

45. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 34, wherein the sensing unit comprises a collector configured to receive moisture and a flex circuit coupled to the collector, wherein the flex circuit comprises a capacitor, and wherein the capacitor is part of a resonant circuit; wherein the collector and the flex circuit are configured such that a change in an amount of moisture in the collector alters a frequency of the resonant circuit.

46. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 34, wherein at least one of the receivers is configured to receive evapotranspiration information for the region, and wherein the computer system is configured to assess an irrigation need of the region to be irrigated at least partially based on the regional evapotranspiration information.

47. (Withdrawn): The system of claim 34, wherein at least one sensing unit comprises a moisture gauge, wherein the moisture gauge is configured such that a rate of evaporation of

moisture from the moisture gauge is within about 10% of an average rate of evaporation of moisture from a zone to be irrigated.

48. (Currently amended): A method of controlling irrigation of an irrigation zone, comprising:

providing a programmed irrigation schedule to a water irrigation system, wherein the programmed irrigation schedule is at least partially based on the region where the irrigation zone is located, the water irrigation system comprising:

irrigation equipment;

a computer system; wherein the computer system is configured to control irrigation equipment to irrigate an irrigation zone based on the programmed irrigation schedule;

at least one sensing unit configured to assess an amount of moisture in an irrigation zone; and

at least one receiver coupled to the computer system, wherein the receiver is configured to receive remote irrigation instructions and send the remote irrigation instructions to the computer system;

assessing an amount of moisture in an irrigation zone;

inhibiting irrigation of the irrigation zone when an assessed amount of moisture exceeds a predetermined amount;

receiving community irrigation instructions generated for the region;

overriding the programmed irrigation schedule based on the community irrigation instructions;

receiving community instructions indicating a fire hazard conditions, and

initiating operation of the irrigation system in response to the community instructions indicating a fire hazard condition.

49. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 48, wherein the receiver is a pager device.
50. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 48, wherein the receiver is an infrared receiver.
51. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 48, wherein the receiver is a single frequency device.
52. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 48, wherein the receiver is an assignable frequency device.
53. (Previously presented): The method of claim 48, wherein the community irrigation instructions result in one or more of the following actions: termination of an irrigation cycle, reduction in duration of an irrigation cycle, reduction in frequency of an irrigation cycle, rescheduling of an irrigation cycle, and initiation of an irrigation cycle.
54. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 48, wherein the region comprises at least a portion of a postal zone.

55. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 48, wherein the water irrigation system further comprises a solar panel configured to receive sunlight and to produce electricity from the received sunlight, and wherein the solar panel is configured to supply at least a portion of the electricity to the sensing unit.

56. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 48, wherein the water irrigation system further comprises at least one wind switch, wherein when the when the wind speed measured by the wind switch exceeds a predetermined value a control signal is sent to at least one of the receivers to terminate irrigation.

57. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 48, wherein the water irrigation system further comprises at least one wind speed sensing unit, wherein when the wind speed measured by the wind speed sensing unit exceeds a certain value for a selected length of time, a control signal is sent to at least one of the receivers to terminate irrigation.

58. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 48, wherein the water irrigation system further comprises a solar panel configured to receive sunlight and to use the received sunlight to produce electricity, wherein the sensing unit is configured to provide output that is a function of the received sunlight to the computer system, and wherein the computer system is configured to assess solar insolation as a function of the output from the sensing unit; and wherein the computer system is configured to control irrigation of a zone to be irrigated at least partially based on the assessed solar insolation.

59. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 48, wherein the sensing unit comprises a collector configured to receive moisture and a flex circuit coupled to the collector, wherein the flex circuit comprises a capacitor, and wherein the capacitor is part of a resonant circuit; wherein the

collector and the flex circuit are configured such that a change in an amount of moisture in the collector alters a frequency of the resonant circuit.

60. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 48, wherein at least one of the receivers is configured to receive evapotranspiration information for the region, and wherein the computer system is configured to assess an irrigation need of the region to be irrigated at least partially based on the regional evapotranspiration information.

61. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 48, wherein at least one sensing unit comprises a moisture gauge, wherein the moisture gauge is configured such that a rate of evaporation of moisture from the moisture gauge is within about 10% of an average rate of evaporation of moisture from a zone to be irrigated.